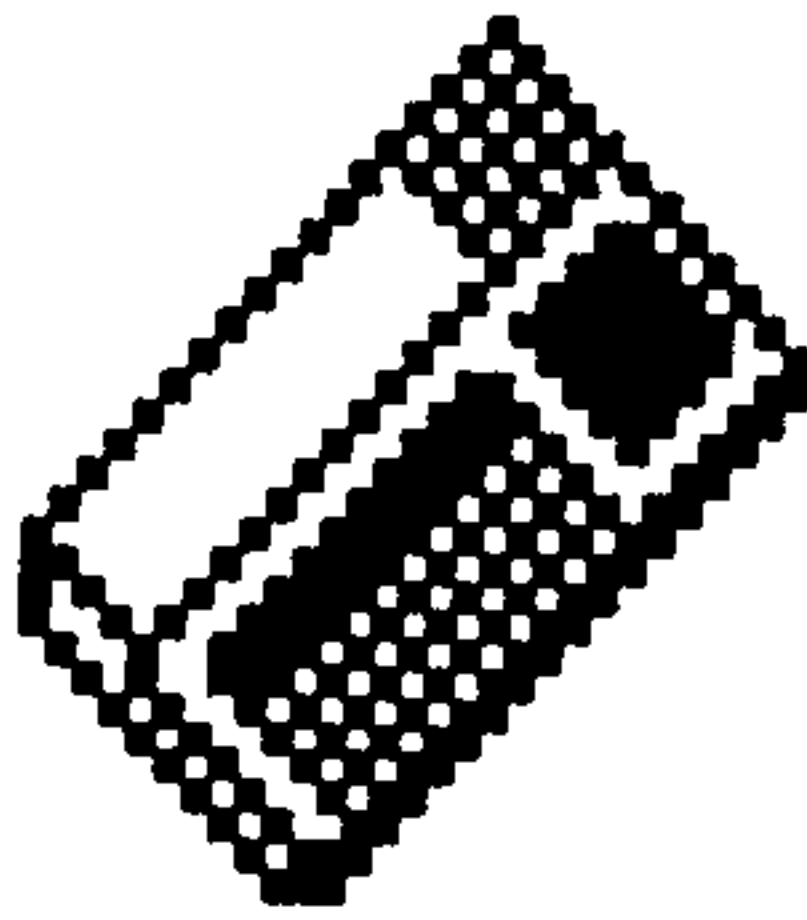




HUG

HOUSTON USERS GROUP

FEBRUARY

1985

HUG TIBBS - (713) 699-2073

24-HOUR BULLETIN BOARD

MEETING SCHEDULE
FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

(2ND SUNDAY IF 1ST SUNDAY IS ON A HOLIDAY WEEKEND)

PROP. of HUG
SET "A"
c/o R. Lumpkin
Houston Texas
713-469-5089

Next Meeting:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1983

St. John's School - 2401 Claremont

FEBRUARY HUG MEETING:

Gregg Wonderly will be the featured speaker, and the Topic of Discussion will be: "Unlocking the true power of the GR0M, using Assembly Language". (see page 2)

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1985 HUG OFFICERS

President - BILL KNECHT.... 473-5713
VP/Membership - DON LEWIS..... 353-5295
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Editor - CECIL CROWDER.. 487-5530

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

If you were not at our January meeting, you missed a good chance to have some of your questions answered. Many questions were answered by our panel and I would like to say thanks to Mark Crump, Gary Curry, Don Lewis and William Shields for being on this panel. We had a standing-room-only crowd of about 110 people. This is really great as that amounts to around 60% of our membership. It just shows that people are still interested in the TI-99/4A. We will see about getting some more chairs for the meeting, but to make sure you have a place to sit, try to come early.

Along the same line of getting questions answered, we have instigated a new program called HUG HELPING HANDS. We had volunteers sign up at the last meeting to answer your questions in a field they are familiar with. Each officer has a copy of this list, so if you have a problem, just call one of the officers. We have helping hands for things such as programming languages, word processors, data bases, printers, some command modules and several other fields. We could use a few more 'experts' if you are familiar with a particular area.

One other thing, if you have not renewed your membership, I urge you to do so. The officers are really making some great plans for this year and we are working on several new ideas, such as our Helping Hands, Crash Course One-Night Seminars on certain areas (in addition to our special interest groups), and some new ideas for programs and the newsletter. What we need now is your participation and suggestions.

Bill W. Knecht

HUG to demonstrate TI99/4A

Our group will be having a booth at a COMPUTER FAIR on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1985, which will be held at Westbrair School, 2711 Fountainview at Westheimer. The Fair will run all day from 9 am to 4:30 pm. We will need a few people to help man the booth and promote the TI-99/4A and HUG. This is a chance for us to become known in the public and maybe pick up some new members. If you would like to help, please call our chairman Rory MacDonald at 466-5034.

A date has been set for our demonstration for the Atari User Group. We will be going on Thursday, March 21. See next month's newsletter for more details.

February HUG meetings

For the February HUG meeting our topic of discussion will be "Assembly Language Programming". Mr. Gregg Wonderly has been invited to join us from Bethany, OK. to discuss his experiences with the TI99/4A Assembly Language. Since TI has been very secretive concerning the internals of the machine, Gregg's discussion is based primarily on personal experimentation.

His presentation and discussion will show examples of how the assembly language programmer can use some of the functions built into the TI99/4A via the resident GROM memories and GPL. This will provide a means to add power to assembly language programs with a lower memory consumption. Some examples purposed are methods of accessing the console DSRLNK routine, adding a GPLLNK routine to Ex-Basic, methods of deciphering GPL, and a short discussion on known GPL subprograms.

While this month's program is primarily directed to more advanced programmers, who have ventured beyond Basic and Ex-Basic, Gregg's discussion should be of interest to all, since sooner or later every programmer who wants to release the full power of his computer will load and run assembly language programs or even write simple assembly routines.

The TI99/4A, while it was advertised by TI as an educational product and sold in major retail outlets in the Toy Dept., is in reality a very powerful machine. This presentation by Gregg should give some indication as to the capabilities of the \$100 DRPHAN.

Sandor Karpathy, VP/Programs

THE FLAGSHIP FRODO

by Paul Huttmacher

FRODO SysOp & HUG member

The Flagship Frodo is different from other TI BBS's because it's run on an Apple IIe, not a TI. Consisting of a LAN of Apples tied into a 45 megabyte Corvus hard disk, all editing, validations, and file changes are done from a remote TI99/4A.

Frodo has a total of nine different bulletin boards on-line which are mostly available to the public depending on your access level. We cater to a varied user base, so you will see boards dedicated to technical questions as well as Trading and D&D boards. Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the board is the General files area, where the Captain (SysOp) shares files with (CNTD p. 3)

(FROM CNTD) the public based on their requests. Right now we have a TI cartridge dump tutorial on-line and hope to keep at least one slot available for TI information.

You can reach the Flagship at (713) 987-4163. Handles are allowed as long as correct name, etc. is left in feedback. Call us! You'll be glad you did. ... Paul

HUG Library Program Review

HUG #1379 XLATE by John Ford

reviewed by Don Lewis

Not many know this, because I am modest about it, but I probably have more experience trying to run Text To Program converters than anyone. I have spent as long as 4 hours patiently editing a D/V80 program file so it will be acceptable to one of the several (picky) converters I have, only to have the converter squat on the file, bomb or crash in the 200th line. (What are computers good for anyway?) Its enough to make a fellow swear...

Well, it's over now. HUG member John Ford has written a Text To Program Converter that will make you erase all the others you own. It's that good!

Being an expert as I am, I wasn't willing to just let the program work on a file...Oh no! I had to doctor several files to mimic the kind of problems you have when you receive a file from a Bulletin Board Service. Along with the file, you will get blank lines, lines without line numbers (More.. and the various prompts), program lines that are missing the quotes from the end, lines over 80 characters long, and much more. You get into TI-Writer or Editor/Assembler and carefully edit all that out...while hoping a careless keystroke won't wipe out a real line.

XLATE takes the file virtually as you receive it, blank lines, lines numbered irregularly, and all, and turns it into a RUNnable file zip quick (comparatively...an 87 block file converted in about 25 minutes!).

After you download a file, use TI-Writer to look at the file to see if you got all of it, whether it's BASIC or X-Basic and whether the lines are numbered regularly (not necessarily by 10's) or irregularly. Delete all the un-numbered lines..thats all you have to do! Those blank lines are DELETED by Xlate and are not in the output file! Missing trailing quote marks are added. When XLATE ends, just type NEW to clear memory and MERGE DSKn.filename to bring the RUNnable file into memory. Then enjoy. (Don't

forget to save your new program before you turn your computer off!)

A few things are not handled by the program, but I think they are relatively unlikely to occur. Here is what I found:

Unmatched parentheses, misspelled BASIC command words, use of a single colon for the X-Basic multistatement separator and GOTO/GOSUB nonexistant lines are passed over without comment or correction. You will find these when you RUN the converted program. Duplicated line numbers are confusing to the program, but it perseveres. On reversed line numbers, it realizes you don't know what you want and stops processing the file. Watch the converted lines as they scroll by and note any error messages...look at the file when it's in memory to make sure the error line made it correctly. Edit as needed. Lines that are too long generally are shortened or dropped from the output file.

The program is very well done, and John is so modest that he doesn't put its name or his on the title screen...both are in REM statements.

Its in the HUG Library as #1379. Get it. I think you'll be as impressed as I am. ... Don

DATABASE 99

(QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE)

review by Don Lewis

If there is any area where the TI (and third-party) software doesn't cover all the bases, it is in the need for a GOOD database manager. Oh, I know Personal Record Keeping has been available for a long time, but I used it only because there was nothing else. Those who have used the International User Group programs found that their fingers went to sleep from typing so slow (for some reason, the input routine is maddeningly slow). PRK doesn't use expansion memory and allows only 200 records on a disk. Enough, already.

A very good database manager has arrived. Database 99 has fast input, flexible input form definition, permits prompting labels on the form so you can remember what a field is for (HUG, are you listening?), permits 350 records on a single-sided disk (700 on double-sided or double-density), catalogs the disk and sorts on multiple fields. Input forms may contain up to 28 fields of up to 28 characters each (245 characters per record max). Thats the good news.

(CNTD p. 4)

(DATABASE CNTD)

Now for the not-so-good news. The program crashes if you mistakenly type a non-numeric character for the disk number while cataloging the disk! Also, the program contains two logic errors which make it impossible to print the values of fields 10 and 19 in a report. I can't believe that it was adequately tested...I found these bugs after only a half day and one big input form.

Not-so-bad news: while you can "Print the format you need...any field in any column on any line." (like the ad says), you can't easily title the report or print column headers. And, you must manually re-enter the entire report format command string (including space and carriage return characters) each time before a report can be printed. Very flexible, but a report format which could be saved on disk is less of a hassle for repeatedly generating the same report.

Minor gripes...most users have an 80 column matrix printer, and most report forms contain more than 80 characters. The program has no way to send a "compressed-print" instruction to the printer so 132 columns can be printed. Also, those with double sided,

double density disk drives and controller card will be disappointed to get the "DISK FULL" message when the disk is only half full...

Conclusion: a good program, which could be much better with just a little more work by the programmer: in speed and flexibility, it's light years ahead of the TI PRK and the IUG offerings.

SLEEVE

The program below will print out a sleeve with a catalog of your disk program for a floppy or for a floppy disk. The printing is in condensed mode and 20 lb. paper is my preference. It is written in extended basic with default for the printer being PIO and the commands are for the GEMINI printer.

If you are in need of sleeves or if you just want to have sleeves with your catalog on it, this is for you. Hope you find it useful in your library. ... Cecil

```

1 !SAVE DSK1.SLEEVE
100 DIM A$(102):: B$=RPT$(" ",19):: CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(5):: FOR B=0 TO 12 :: CALL COLOR(B,16,5):: NEXT B
110 DISPLAY AT(10,4):"DISK SLEEVE PRINTER": :TAB(3): "Written by: Randy Baxter": :TAB(2):"Revised by: Cecil Crowder"
120 DISPLAY AT(21,6)BEEP:"ENTER PRINTER NAME": : "PIO" :: ACCEPT AT(23,1)SIZE(-28):C$ :: OPEN #1:C$,VARIABLE 132
130 A,C=0 :: DISPLAY AT(21,1):TAB(4):"PLACE DISK IN DRIVE #1": :TAB(6):"THEN PRESS ENTER" :: ACCEPT AT(23,23)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("")BEEP:Z$
140 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"" :TAB(9):"READING DISK" :: OPEN #2:"DSK1.",INTERNAL,RELATIVE,INPUT :: D$(1)="DIS/FIX" :: D$(2)="DIS/VAR" :: D$(3)="INT/FIX" :: D$(4)="INT/VAR" :: D$(5)="PROGRAM"
150 INPUT #2:E$,F,F,D :: C=C+1 :: A$(C)=E$&SEG$(B$,1,19-LEN(E$))&"=DISKNAME" :: C=C+1 :: A$(C)="AVAILABLE="&STR$(D)&" USED="&STR$(F-D) :: A$(C)=A$(C)&SEG$(B$,1,28-LEN(A$(C)))
160 C=C+1 :: A$(C)="FILENAME SIZE TYPE P" :: C=C+1 :: A$(C)="-----"
170 IF C=102 THEN 260 ELSE INPUT #2:E$,G,F,D :: IF E$="" THEN 210 ELSE C=C+1 :: F$=STR$(G) :: G$=STR$(F) :: H$=STR$(D)
180 IF G<1 THEN I$=" P" ELSE I$=" "
190 IF ABS(G)=5 THEN J$="" : GO TO 200 ELSE J$=SEG$("000",1,3-LEN(H$))&H$
200 A$(C)=E$&SEG$(B$,1,12-LEN(E$))&G$&SEG$(B$,1,3-LEN(G$))&"D$(ABS(G))ZJ$I$" :: 60 TO 170
210 CLOSE #2 :: IF A=0 THEN DISPLAY AT(21,1)BEEP:TAB(6):"PRESS 1 FOR FLOPPY": :TAB(6):"PRESS 2 FOR FLIPPY" :: A=1 ELSE 260
220 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"8";
230 CALL KEY(0,D,E) :: IF D=-1 THEN 230 ELSE IF D=50 THEN 240 ELSE IF D=49 THEN 260 ELSE 230
240 C=C+1 :: A$(C)=RPT$(" ",28):: DISPLAY AT(21,1):TAB(8):"FLIP DISK OVER": :TAB(5):"THEN PRESS <ENTER>"
250 ACCEPT AT(23,23)BEEP SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("")Z$ :: 60 TO 140
260 IF C=102 THEN 280
270 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"" :TAB(2):"CLEARING REMAINING BUFFER" :: FOR B=C+1 TO 102 :: A$(B)=RPT$(" ",28):: NEXT B
280 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"" :TAB(11):"PRINTING" :: PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"0";CHR$(15);CHR$(27);"1";CHR$(10);CHR$(27);"2";CHR$(20);CHR$(119);CHR$(0)
290 PRINT #1:"INSTRUCTIONS: 1) CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES 2) FOLD ALONG DASHED LINES 3) GLUE FLAPS"
300 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"U";CHR$(1);RPT$(" ",120):: FOR B=1 TO 2 :: PRINT #1:" ",9;CHR$(245);RPT$(" ",98);CHR$(245);RPT$(" ",9);" " :: NEXT B
310 FOR B=1 TO 29 :: PRINT #1:" ",9;CHR$(9);CHR$(245);" ";A$(B);" " :A$(B+34);" " :A$(B+68);CHR$(9);CHR$(245);" " " " "
320 NEXT B :: FOR B=30 TO 33 :: PRINT #1:RPT$(" ",(B-29)*2);".":CHR$(9);CHR$(245);" ";A$(B);" " :A$(B+34);" " :A$(B+68);CHR$(9);
330 PRINT #1:CHR$(245);RPT$(" ",(34-B)*2-1);"." :: NEXT B
340 B=34 :: PRINT #1:" ";CHR$(9);".": " ";A$(B);" " :A$(B+34);" " :A$(B+68);CHR$(9);".":
350 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"U";CHR$(0);RPT$(" ",11);RPT$(" ",98):: FOR B=1 TO 37 :: PRINT #1:RPT$(" ",11);".":RPT$(" ",96);"." :: NEXT B
360 FOR B=1 TO 4 :: PRINT #1:RPT$(" ",11+B*2);".":RPT$(" ",96-B*4);"." :: NEXT B
370 PRINT #1:RPT$(" ",21);RPT$(" ",78);CHR$(12):: DISPLAY AT(21,1): : "PRINT ANOTHER SLEEVE? (Y/N)Y" :: ACCEPT AT(23,28)SIZE(-1)BEEP VALIDATE("YN"):Z$
380 IF Z$="Y" THEN 130 :: PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"0" :: CLOSE #1 :: END

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HUG MEMBERSHIP...

by Don Lewis

VP/Membership

As we pass the beginning of a new year, (the beginning of the second full year since TI got out), a pessimist might decide that the future looks pretty bleak. Fewer magazines have TI stuff, (fewer magazines around altogether), and fewer advertisers offer software and hardware. A bleak future, except for one bright spot...user groups. User groups are the key to user interest, which is the only way that commercial software and third-party hardware will continue to be designed, manufactured and offered. And THAT is the only way that the computer will continue to meet our needs...with new software and hardware to run it. Some of you have received a last-gasp letter from TI listing the user groups they know about. The message is clear...TI thinks the user groups are the only way that owners can continue to get value from their investment. User groups are for you! Where else can you go and learn so much about hardware, software and techniques? ... Nowhere!

HUG stands as one of the best opportunities for any owner to make good (and continued) use of the TI-99/4A computer. Members receive a monthly newsletter, a monthly meeting (attendance is not required), and access to all the other benefits as well as a HUG Library Catalog which is updated in the newsletter. And the HUG library has one of the best deals going for software. New members get a choice of 6 programs from the 474 current titles (and this grows at about 30/month). After that, programs cost \$1.50 each (plus disk or cassette unless you provide and postage where applicable), or 4 FREE for each program you submit, which is accepted for inclusion in the library (NO copyrighted material, please!).

This year, for the first time, HUG dues have gone up. By far the most important single contributor to our yearly expense is the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Even after the increase RENEWAL fee is only \$15 and the NEW MEMBER fee is an additional \$10. New, too, for this year, there will be a postage surcharge on Foreign memberships to cover the extra cost of postage.

HUG MEMBERS:

It's NATIONAL INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN HUG MONTH. Invite your friends to be your guest at a HUG meeting. If your friend lives out of town, you may still invite him/her to join HUG. Remember we have members out of town, out of state and even in Canada and Indonesia.

USER GROUPS:

Please announce the main points of this article at your next meeting so the information can reach as many people as possible.

=====

Thanks...Don

=====

HUG TIBBS

Stephen Foster, SysOp

(713) 699-2073

Looking back to about the middle of last year Ralph Arnold had moved to Indonesia, taking his BBS with him, and this left the Houston area without a TI BBS. HUG TIBBS was the first to activate and since then there seems to be a rush of TI and TI supported boards.

None of these however have gained the fame of HUG TIBBS. I believe that this is due to the hard work and the many connections of our SysOp. He has friends around the world which he communicates with on a seemingly regular basis.

During the few month of operation there have been over 7,000 calls recorded with some of them being international calls including the first call this year.

HUG TIBBS now is operating with a totally revised program and there are areas which were not accessible before. We now have a JOKE, WISH I HAD, FORUM, SYSOP'S CORNER, PRESIDENT'S CORNER, NEWSLETTER, FOR SALE OR TRADE, as well as the MESSAGE base and other features we had before. One of the callers left a message that with the new program he got lost and thought that he was on Compuserve. I don't know about that but it is really nice. The only complaint that I have heard is that even with the 30 min. time limit it still is busy all the time.

If you do not have a modem you are missing out on a lot of enjoyment and should visit a friend that has one to get him to demonstrate it for you.

Maybe you think that I'm biased in judgement. I may be because Steve is very good friend of mine, but... the board is still excellent. By the way "Belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY STEPHEN". (Friday, Jan. 25) ... Cecil

=====

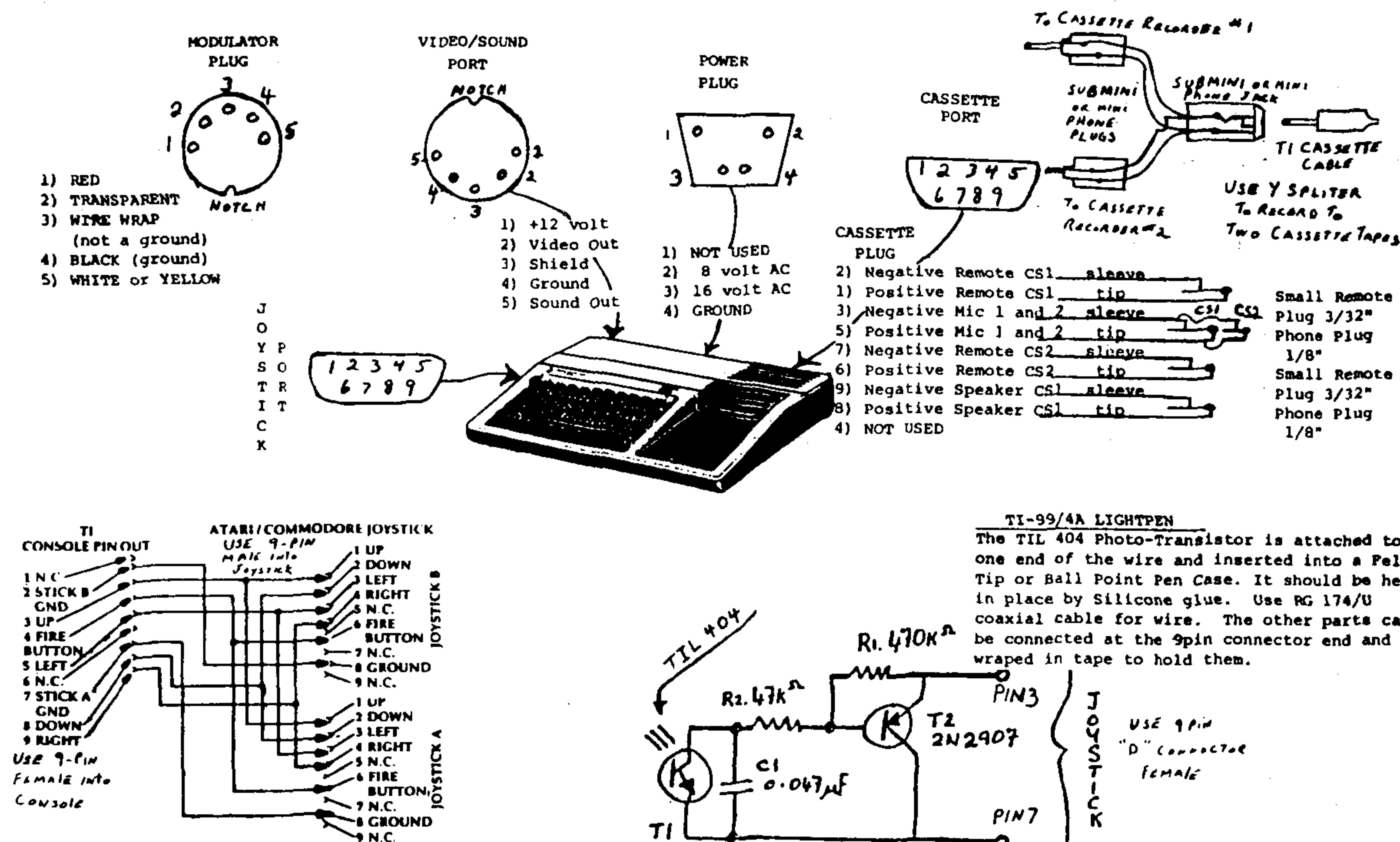
EDITOR'S ROM

Most of this newsletter including the HUG LIBRARY REVIEW has been concerning Bulletin Boards. I welcome letters to the editor letting me know your comments, suggestions and/or contributions. (these are welcome from members and non-members as well) What will be the major factor in next month's newsletter? ... It's up to you.

I have two files of TIGERCUB TIPS from Jim Peterson, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, Oh 43213. You may have seen some of his tips on HUG TIBBS. Let me know if you want me to copy them for you. ... Cecil

WIRING DIAGRAMS AND PIN POSITIONS All plug and port numbers are as if you were looking straight into them. Now you have something to use if a wire breaks or you want a weekend project.

MARSHALL



HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM February 1985

HUG is in the process of printing a new library catalog which will be distributed to each member as he/she joins or renews membership during the months of January and February. One catalog for the year will be issued to each member. Additional catalogs will be available for \$ 1.50 each including shipping & handling.

Publication of the regular addendum sheet will resume with the March edition of the newsletter. These addendum sheets should be attached to your catalog to keep you supplied with an updated catalog throughout the year.

LIBRARY RECORDS SHOW PROGRAMS DUE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1984. IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR, RECORDS INDICATE A ZERO BALANCE DUE.

Adams, R	6	Anderson, G	6	Anderson, W	11
Arnold, R	7	Brantley, F	2	Brooks, J	6
Carwell, B	6	Chance, M	1	Coles, R	1
Cota, M	6	Crowder, C	20	Dasenbrock, T	4
DelValle, W	4	Durham, R	8	Feld, I	4
Fesler, H	6	Foster, S	502	Gadzick, J	5
Goddard, T	5	Greer, L	4	Hearn, B	6
Herman, S	6	Holm, R	6	Hutmacher, P	4
Johnson, T	2	Knecht, B	370	Matula, M	56
McAshan, J	29	McCormick, R	6	Miller, J	3
Mitchell, B	4	Moeller, J	6	Nance, D	6
Nelson, J	6	Nilsen, W	6	Noel, G	6
Palmer, B	12	Purdy, K	5	Rister, W	48
Roach, J	5	Sawhney, S	6	Scandalis, S	6
Schlereth, H	2	Shah, N	4	Smith, D	6
Stiles, B	6	Terrasson, H	6	Thompson, R	6
Thorpe, E	6	Whitelaw, C	18	Wilkerson, H	6
Youngblood, R	6				

Several members ordered programs during 1984 and never picked them up. If you have been unable to attend meetings and have not received your order, please contact Bill Rister so that arrangements may be made to deliver these orders to you.

Bill Rister

THE PHOENIX

On Dec. 26, '84 a new TIBBS came on the scene in the bayou city. Bill Rister, HUG librarian, initiated the new FOWLER program complete with true downloads if you are using a TI with TE II.

As of 1/20 there 132 verified users, (no fee) 740+ calls, several of which are repeat calls from out of state. (713) 537-0741

GREAT GOING BILL!

... Cecil

TI WORKSHOP

We just held our first workshop and from all the reports that I have heard everyone there considered it a success. I taught on disk repair and there were 15 present at Joe Roach's house.

A workshop resembles a S.I.G. without the revolving commitment. There are others being planned now but due to space reservations are required. (NO COST) The most popular scheduled workshop now is on TI-WRITTER to be taught by Robert Wittliff. For info on this or others or help in organizing or teaching others, call a HUG officer.
... Cecil

[illegible][illegible]

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